

MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY SEEKS
NOMINATIONS FOR 2009 MENTAL
HEALTH CHAMPIONS

For the second year in a row, the Missouri Mental Health Foundation, the Missouri Department of Mental Health, and the mental health community will recognize three exceptional individuals who have demonstrated themselves as true "Champions" to the citizens of Missouri.

The Mental Health Champions Celebration Committee is seeking nominations of individuals whose actions and accomplishments exemplify commitment and courage in an effort to make life better for themselves and others in their communities. DMH Housing strongly encourages readers of this newsletter to take the time to nominate someone who deserves this recognition. In the field of housing and homelessness, we've all crossed paths with people of great character and courage who have risen to the challenge of overcoming disease, disability and homelessness to give something back to the community. These are the people we want

to honor as Mental Health Champions.

Persons may be nominated in one of three categories:

- 1. An individual with a diagnosed mental illness;
- 2. An individual with a developmental disability; or
- 3. An individual in recovery from a substance or gambling addiction.

The Mental Health Champions Selection Committee will be looking for examples of how individuals with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse

problems have overcome their challenges, whose actions and activities inspire others, and who are having positive impacts on their local communities. For information about last year's honorees, including links to video tributes, please visit the DMH web site.

The winners will be honored at the Mental Health Champions Banquet, April 15, 2009, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. The Missouri Mental Health Foundation will host each Champion and one guest at the dinner and at the hotel for a one-night stay. Winners will receive a \$1,000 cash prize.

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The deadline for submission of nomination forms is 5 PM on October 30, 2008. Nominations will be reviewed and finalists chosen by a panel of judges from mental health care and related fields.

Send your nominations to:

Missouri Dept. of Mental Health CHAMPIONS Awards Office of Public Affairs 1706 E. Elm St., P.O. Box 687 Jefferson City, MO 65102

Or fax to 573-526-4698

Please contact the Department of Mental Health's Office of Public Affairs with any questions at 573-751-4423, toll-free at 800-364-9687, or by e-mail at opamail@dmh.mo.gov.

Congress Approves
Sweeping Amendments to
Americans With
Disabilities Act

On September 17, 2008, Congress passed the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA). The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent and the House by voice vote. President Bush signed the bill into law on September 25, 2008, and it will become effective on January 1, 2009.

This civil rights bill is designed to expand protections for people with disabilities. As a result of these changes, potentially millions of persons not previously covered by the ADA will now qualify for its protections. The ADA was originally passed in 1990 and signed by President George H.W. Bush. Since then, HOUSING

a number of Supreme Court decisions have limited protections that lawmakers say were meant to be included under the ADA. This bill expands the definition of disability, explicitly rejecting the Supreme Court's standards to limit who is considered to have a disability. The legislation even goes so far as to say that the "definition of disability in this act shall be construed in favor of broad coverage." Individuals with diabetes, cancer, multiple sclerosis, and other such ailments have been denied protection under the law because their conditions could be treated with medication or other measures.

Note to Self: HUD Extends Continuum Applications Deadline Again

After extending the deadline for Continuum of Care homeless assistance applications to October 16<sup>th</sup>, HUD has again extended that deadline to October 23<sup>rd</sup>, as of 10/9/08. So you still have a few days left! ©

Under the amended law, courts will be unable to consider the effects of most "mitigating measures," such as medication, in determining whether or not an individual has a disability. The act also expands the scope of the term "substantially limits" where one is required to prove that he or she is substantially limited in a major life activity—a prerequisite to be protected

as an individual who has an actual disability. It also makes it easier for individuals to prove that they have been discriminated against by relaxing the requirement that forced persons who claimed they were being discriminated against because they were perceived as having a disability to prove that the perceived disability substantially limited a major life activity. Effective January 1, such persons need only to prove unlawful discrimination.

St. Joseph's InterServ to Mark 100 Years of Service and Outreach in 2009

"...our history (and our future) is built on a foundation of faith and an unwavering determination to advocate on behalf of those with the fewest alternatives."—interserv.org

It strikes me as both ironic and inspiring (if that's possible) that 100 years ago, InterServ was serving milk to the children of eastern European immigrants who came to Missouri to work in the old St. Joseph stockyards and packing plants; and now in the early 21st century is applying for million dollar grants over the internet to help shelter the homeless of St. Joe. Ironic, because the problems of poverty and homelessness continue to exist; but also inspiring because of the persistence and the breadth of the vision and principles that guide InterServ. Perhaps there's also some irony in the chance that the descendents of those early 20th century immigrants

are possibly helping to run the City of St. Joseph now, while InterServ once again addresses the needs of a new wave of immigrants to the area.



In the beginning: volunteers and children, Wesley House "milk station".

InterServ, or Interfaith Community Services, began in 1909 as Wesley House. Wesley House was part of the Settlement movement, growing from the same Progressive Era roots as Jane Addams and Hull House of Chicago, the Missouri Association for Social Welfare, and the very foundations of modern social work. The Settlement movement began in England in the late 19th century, and first linked the ancient Christian imperative to help the poor with idea of community involvement and volunteerism.

The early 20<sup>th</sup> century in America saw a huge rise in immigration from eastern Europe. Then as now, many such new Americans were easily exploited because of their ignorance of the language and of American culture; they were also subjected to virulent bigotry because of their foreignness. Their plight

became a national issue thanks in part to the 1906 novel <u>The Jungle</u> by journalist Upton Sinclair. In response to the poverty to be found among

these immigrant populations in St. Joseph, women of the Methodist Episcopal Church opened Wesley House under the direction of Deaconess Miss Francis Scott to provide

citizenship classes and support to immigrants seeking work in St. Joseph's packing plants and stockyards. Wesley House volunteers served free milk to mothers and children and

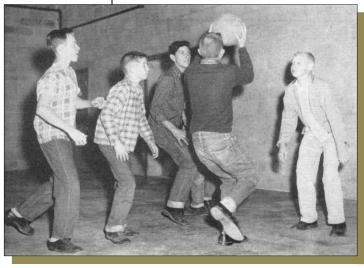
organized The Mother's Club, a support group to help immigrant mothers learn English and learn to live in their new culture.

Over the years, as the needs of immigrants faded, InterServ expanded its efforts to address the needs of the

young and the elderly. In the 1960's, InterServ was doing what Director of Operations Randy Sharp calls Playground Outreach. Volunteers went into poor sections of St. Joseph and surrounding communities and set

up mobile playgrounds for children who were otherwise deprived of after-school activities and guidance. Boxing became an organized activity for the local youngsters, and gradually gave way to basketball and weightlifting programs. Scouting was also among InterServ's programs for children. In the early 1970's, InterServ set up Mobile Meals, a program still going strong today that serves over 74,000 meals to homebound seniors each year.

In recent years InterServ, through its sister entity
Community Missions Corporation
(CMC), has expanded its role in the community from service provider to shelter provider to housing provider. Because of the growing homeless population in St. Joseph, a coalition of churches turned to



Basketball in the gym at Wesley House, 1950's.

InterServ to initiate a program to assist men experiencing homeless during the winter months who for various reasons had no other shelter options. The seasonally operated emergency shelter, My Brother's

House, was born out of that need. InterServ has spent the last six winters sheltering hundreds of homeless men from the cold, and has done it with the help of volunteers that bring food each night and lots of local donations. That project has in turn led InterServ to form CMC and build Juda House, which opened in December of 2006. Juda House is permanent supportive housing for up to 16 chronically homeless men. And next on the agenda is another permanent housing project: St. Joseph's Haven, a Safe Haven to be built next to the Juda House. Right now they are building the walls of the Haven and expect to open in the summer of 2009.



InterServ also operates numerous other programs currently, including two preschool facilities, the Wesley Weightlifters (which has produced two Olympic athletes and a coach who coached the US women's weightlifting team at the Beijing Olympics this year), Summer Jam and Summer Spike (volleyball and basketball programs), financial management counseling, a food pantry, many services for seniors and certified immigration assistance services—to name a few.

David Howery is the current Executive Director of InterServ. Randy Sharp says, "Dave has a lot of vision—he wants to do big

things," among which may be building a new structure to replace the 80 year-old building that is Wesley House, which replaced the original Wesley House. A truck recently crashed into the side of Wesley House, leaving a rather large hole, so Randy, as the guy in charge of operations, is thinking maybe a new building is about due. Randy epitomizes InterServ's continuing role as a leader in the community; in addition to his job as Director of Operations, he also chairs the St. Joseph Continuum of Care, which for several months every year could easily be a full-time iob by itself. His predecessor as COC Chair, Bridgette Supple, is also an employee of InterServ.

Dave Howery is responsible for moving InterServ into a whole different realm of serving the poor of St. Joe than was ever contemplated by Deaconess Miss Francis Scott 100 years ago; but he is the heir to, and managing the enduring legacy of generations of InterServ volunteers and leaders before him: "Through the sharing of God's love, we seek out and assist those in need, so all may live their lives more fully and more capably."

Americans Increasingly
Facing Lack of Insurance,
High Medical Costs, Study
Finds

[From Philanthropy News
Digest:] The proportion of
working-age Americans who
have medical bill problems or
who are paying off medical

debt climbed from 34 percent to 41 percent between 2005 and 2007, a new report from the New York City-based Commonwealth Fund finds.

Based on data from four years of the Commonwealth Fund Biennial Health Insurance Survey, "Losing Ground: How the Loss of Adequate Health Insurance is Burdening Working Families" found that a "perfect storm" of negative economic trends is battering working



families across the country: the federal minimum wage is now three dollars an hour lower, in real terms, than it was forty years ago; gas and food prices are soaring; home values are declining; and growth in healthcare costs is far outstripping income growth. As a result, insurance coverage deteriorated over the past six years, with declines in coverage most severe for moderateincome families. Nearly 9 million U.S. adults under age 65 have lost their health insurance since 2000.

At the same time, the number of insured adults who spend more than 5 percent or 10 percent of income on health care and insurance rose across all income groups between 2001 and 2007. As a result, the number of underinsured adults climbed to 25 million people in 2007, up from 16 million in 2003. An additional 7 million adults age 65 and older also reported bill or debt problems. While the increase occurred across all income groups, families with low and moderate incomes were particularly hard hit; more than half of adults with incomes under \$40,000 reported problems with their medical bills in 2007.

All told, in 2007 nearly twothirds of U.S. adults — some 116 million people — struggled to pay medical bills, went without needed care because of cost, were uninsured for a time, or were underinsured. According to the report, declining insurance coverage and rising healthcare costs are likely contributing to skimping on needed care.

"Healthcare costs are climbing much more rapidly than incomes or the growth in the overall economy," Sara R. Collins, assistant vice president of the



Commonwealth
Fund and one
of the authors
of the report
told the
Washington
Post. "What is
notable is how

these problems are spreading up the income scale."

DMH Housing Expands
Shelter Plus Care
Coverage for Chronically
Homeless

DMH Housing has immediate openings for its new Shelter Plus Care rental assistance grant located in the City of St. Louis. These HUD funds will help pay rent on permanent supported housing for 50 people who have experienced chronic homelessness.

To qualify as chronically homeless, applicants must be a single individual; have a serious mental illness, alcohol or substance abuse disorder; developmental disability; or a disability related to HIV or AIDS. They must also be currently homeless and have been homeless continuously for one year or have had four episodes of homelessness over the past three years.

Any mental health services provider in St. Louis City who is a DMH contractor may submit applications on behalf of persons who qualify.

DMH Housing is also awaiting a contract from HUD on a smaller Shelter Plus Care grant aimed at housing 13 chronically homeless persons in Jackson County and the Metropolitan Kansas City area.

For more information about DMH's Shelter Plus Care programs and chronic homelessness, please visit the DMH Housing web site.

MO Economic
Development Announces
Action Plan Public
Hearing Dates

The Missouri Department of Economic Development, in conjunction with the Missouri Housing Development Commission, the Department of Health & Senior Services and the Department of Social Services, will conduct a series of public meetings to assess the State's proposed Action Plan for 2009.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the State of Missouri to publish an annual "Action Plan" outlining the use of HUD funds for the following programs run in the state:



- Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program (MHDC)
- Emergency Shelter Grant Program (ESG)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA)
- Continuum of Care/McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Funds

These programs receive a total annual allocation of approximately \$40 million and serve the "non-entitlement" areas of the state – cities less than 50,000 in population and counties less than 200,000 in population.

The State collected information on the housing, community, and economic development needs for the State of Missouri and assembled a consolidated strategic plan for 2008-2012. As an annual addition to this "Consolidated Plan," the FY2009 draft Action Plan must include proposed program budgets, intended use of funds, eligibility requirements, application processes, and any set-aside information.

The public is invited to examine the draft Action Plan and either send written comments or attend one of five public meetings that will take place in November. During the public hearings, each program will be discussed and proposed changes will be reviewed.

Written comments are welcome and will be accepted until December 15, 2009.

Comments should be submitted to Andy Papen, CDBG Program, PO Box 118, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

The final version of the FY2009 Action Plan will be submitted to HUD by February, and funds will be made available at the beginning of the FY2009 program year, April 1, 2009.

The draft FY2009 Action Plan will be available on or around

November 1, 2008, on the

Department of Economic

Development website. Printed copies will also be made available for examination at public libraries, Regional Planning Commission offices, Community Action Agencies, and state government agency offices in Jefferson City and Kansas City. For a complete list of those locations, please contact Andy Papen, Community Development Block Grant Program, at 573-751-3600.

The schedule for Action Plan public hearings is as follows:

Date & Time	Location
November 12 1pm-3pm	City Hall 110 W. Maddox Branson
November 13 9am-11am	Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission 3019 Fair Poplar Bluff
November 18 1pm- 3pm	Green Hills Community Action Agency 1506 Oklahoma Ave. Trenton
November 19 9am-11am	Community Center 11 Woodcrest Troy
November 19 2:30pm-4:30pm	Harry S. Truman Bldg., Rm. 500 301 West High Jefferson City



## St. Patrick Center Opens Rosati Apartments

St. Patrick Center announced on October 14, 2008, the Grand Opening of Rosati Apartments, a 26-unit apartment complex that will change the course of treatment for chronically homeless men and women. Rosati Apartments will provide permanent, supportive housing for 26 chronically homeless men and women suffering from mental illness and/or substance abuse.

Rosati Apartments consists of two adjacent three-story housing projects at 4220 and 4222 North Grand, and contains 26 fully furnished studio apartments (single occupancy). On-site support services include an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team to help build long-term stability among the residents.



In response to St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay's 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, St. Patrick Center took the lead with construction of Rosati Apartments. With ten public and private funding partners, this five-million dollar housing project is a national model for mixed financing and public/private partnership.

"Rosati Apartments absolutely could not have been done without all of our loyal partners," said St. Patrick Center CEO Dan Buck. "Because they believe in our vision of a new approach to serving this fragile population, we are able to continue our steadfast effort to end homelessness in St. Louis."



Construction of Rosati
Apartments was funded by
Enterprise Community Partners,
Inc.; Federal Home Loan Bank of
Des Moines; Heartland Bank;
Missouri Housing Development
Commission (HOME, Missouri
Housing Trust Fund, Low Income
Housing Tax Credit); St. Louis
Affordable Housing Commission;
St. Louis Equity Fund; and HUD
(811 and SHP).

The Archdiocese of St. Louis donated the tract of land for Rosati Apartments to the project's limited partnership. Demolition at the site was completed in July 2007. Construction began in September 2007. Rosati Apartments is located next to the existing Rosati Group Home at 4224 North Grand, now housing 14 clients of St. Patrick Center.

"If the statement, 'there's no place like home' is true, St. Patrick Center and Rosati Apartments are making a real home possible for 26 individuals," said Rosati Director Nora Boland. "These 26 new addresses of hope, caring, dignity and respect will offer permanent, positive change for our homeless mentally ill population."

"Today's grand opening is not only a beginning, but also an end," said Buck. "The end of those who say mixed financing housing deals are impossible; the end of those who say the best we can do for the homeless is feed, shelter, hospitalize and imprison them; and for 26 formerly homeless men and women, the end of living out of bags, the end of eating out of trash cans, the end of wondering if they'll survive another night on the streets."

Regional Housing Meeting
Schedule for December
2008

Staff from the Missouri Housing Development Commission will continue to facilitate regional housing meetings around the state. Attending one of these meetings is a great way to generate public discussion about housing and homelessness needs in your local area. For further information, please contact Heather Bradley-Geary at MHDC at 816-759-7201 for further information. Below is the meeting schedule for December 2008:

Regional Housing Meetings December 2008		
Date/Time	Location	
12/2/08	MASW	
9-11am	606 E. Capitol	
	Jefferson City	
12/3/08	Community	
9-11am	Counseling Ctr, 402	
	S. Silver Springs Rd.	
	Cape Girardeau	
12/3/08	DAEOC	
2-4pm	99 Skyview Rd	
40.44.400	Portageville	
12/4/08	United Gospel Rescue Mission 508	
9-11am	Cherry	
	Poplar Bluff	
12/4/08	Ozark Action	
2-4pm	720 E. Main	
2-4pm	West Plains	
12/5/08	Church Army	
9-11am	501 S. 6th	
,	Branson	
12/8/08	Community	
9-11am	Services, Inc.	
	1212 S. Main	
	Maryville	
12/8/08	Green Hills	
2-4pm	Community Action	
	1506 Oklahoma Ave Trenton	
12 /0 /00	Kirksville Gardens	
12/9/08	Apts.	
9-11am	1501 S. Jamison	
	Kirksville	
12/9/08	NECAC	
2-4pm	917 Broadway	
2 19111	Hannibal	
12/10/08	Pettis Co.	
10-12pm	Community	
•	Partnership	
	515 S. Kentucky	



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